



NORFOLK

Norfolk County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Norfolk is a rural suburban town on the periphery of metropolitan Boston, located on an upper valley of the Charles River. There were a half dozen small farms in the town after 1669, the result of a determined effort to populate the Colonial frontier. This was seen as a difficult task despite the good agricultural lands, fresh water fishing and fish runs because the settlement was so remote.

It was abandoned during the King Philip's war, and when Norfolk was re-established settlers relied on agriculture and cattle grazing with some considerable lumbering and planting of orchards. After 1812, three cotton manufacturing companies were established at Stony Brook, and later in the 19th century George Campbell's paper mill was opened at Highland Lake making heavy wrapping and building papers. In the modern era, the town saw a rapid increase in population after 1925 when the state built a state prison in Norfolk and a hospital. Major residential development took place before 1940 in the Pondville and Clark Streets section of town with scattered new housing along Seekonk and Main Streets, and suburban residential building has continued since.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Millis and Medfield on the north, Walpole on the east, Foxborough and Wrentham on the south, and Franklin and Medway on the west. Norfolk is 20 miles southeast of Boston; about 28 miles north of Providence, Rhode island; and about 205 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 15.19 sq. miles

Land Area: 14.84 sq. miles

Population: 9,270

Density: 625 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(West Medway Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....70.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Wrentham, Medfield, Holliston, Franklin

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 528-1400

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1870

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,788		
Democrats	845	17.6	%
Republicans	925	19.3	%
Other parties	16	0.3	%
Unenrolled Voters	3,002	62.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Norfolk town, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	10,460	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	10,460	100.0
Male.....	6,149	58.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	510	4.9
Female.....	4,311	41.2	Mexican.....	29	0.3
Under 5 years.....	764	7.3	Puerto Rican.....	175	1.7
5 to 9 years.....	880	8.4	Cuban.....	18	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	801	7.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	288	2.8
15 to 19 years.....	570	5.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	9,950	95.1
20 to 24 years.....	306	2.9	White alone.....	9,199	87.9
25 to 34 years.....	1,349	12.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,513	24.0	Total population.....	10,460	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,852	17.7	In households.....	8,693	83.1
55 to 59 years.....	544	5.2	Householder.....	2,818	26.9
60 to 64 years.....	306	2.9	Spouse.....	2,200	21.0
65 to 74 years.....	358	3.4	Child.....	3,302	31.6
75 to 84 years.....	172	1.6	Own child under 18 years.....	2,775	26.5
85 years and over.....	47	0.4	Other relatives.....	190	1.8
Median age (years).....	37.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	58	0.6
18 years and over.....	7,611	72.8	Nonrelatives.....	183	1.7
Male.....	4,653	44.5	Unmarried partner.....	82	0.8
Female.....	2,958	28.3	In group quarters.....	1,767	16.9
21 years and over.....	7,379	70.5	Institutionalized population.....	1,766	16.9
62 years and over.....	735	7.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1	-
65 years and over.....	577	5.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	286	2.7	Total households.....	2,818	100.0
Female.....	291	2.8	Family households (families).....	2,413	85.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,423	50.5
One race.....	10,335	98.8	Married-couple family.....	2,200	78.1
White.....	9,306	89.0	With own children under 18 years.....	1,325	47.0
Black or African American.....	513	4.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	161	5.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	32	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	75	2.7
Asian.....	123	1.2	Nonfamily households.....	405	14.4
Asian Indian.....	28	0.3	Householder living alone.....	304	10.8
Chinese.....	28	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	126	4.5
Filipino.....	6	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,461	51.8
Japanese.....	3	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	378	13.4
Korean.....	12	0.1	Average household size.....	3.08	(X)
Vietnamese.....	16	0.2	Average family size.....	3.36	(X)
Other Asian ¹	30	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	2,861	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,818	98.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	43	1.5
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	10	0.3
Some other race.....	359	3.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	125	1.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	2,818	100.0
White.....	9,390	89.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,600	92.3
Black or African American.....	569	5.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	218	7.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	68	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.17	(X)
Asian.....	158	1.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.12	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	13	0.1			
Some other race.....	395	3.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	84
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Norfolk is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 1A, which runs NE-SW between State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495, and State Route 115, which runs roughly N-S.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available to South Station and Back Bay Station, Boston. Travel time to BBS: 35-47 minutes; MBTA parking spaces:491.

Bus

Norfolk is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) but does not receive bus or paratransit service.

Other

The Norfolk Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 3 mi. NW of town, has a 2,700' asphalt runway with a copter approach.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Southwood Community Hospital

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

Hospice Care @ Southwood C.H.

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.